

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, the cartridge having an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid chocolate ingredient and at least one inlet for air and means for generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage, whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 1 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient is concentrated.

Claim 4 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains greater than 40% total solids.

Claim 5 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 70 and 95% total solids.

Claim 6 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains about 90% total solids.

Claim 7 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient is in the form of a gel.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient has a viscosity of between 1700 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 10 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains cocoa solids.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 50 and 80% total cocoa solids.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 60 and 70% total cocoa solids.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more liquid chocolate ingredients during an operating cycle, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage by dilution of said one or more chocolate ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the one or more liquid chocolate ingredients is diluted by a ratio of between 2 to 1 and 10 to 1.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 13 further comprising the step of passing the beverage through means to produce foaming of the beverage, wherein the level of foaming is greater than 70%.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid milk ingredient.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 15, wherein the cartridge comprises an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid milk ingredient.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the liquid milk ingredient is concentrated.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the liquid milk ingredient contains between 25 and 40% total solids.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the liquid milk ingredient contains 30% total solids.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the liquid milk ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in any of claim 20 wherein the liquid milk ingredient contains between 0.1 and 12% fat.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more liquid milk ingredients during an operating cycle, comprising the

steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage by dilution of said one or more liquid ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the one or more liquid milk ingredients is diluted by a ratio of between 1 to 1 and 6 to 1.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the one or more liquid milk ingredients is diluted by a ratio of around 3 to 1.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the step of passing the beverage through means to produce foaming of the beverage, wherein the level of foaming is greater than 40%.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid coffee ingredient.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein the cartridge comprises an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid coffee ingredient.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 26 wherein the liquid coffee ingredient is concentrated.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 27 wherein the liquid coffee contains between 40 and 70% total solids.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 28 wherein the liquid coffee contains between 55 and 67% total solids.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 29 wherein the liquid coffee ingredient contains sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 30 containing between 0.1 and 2.0% by weight sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 31 containing between 0.5 and 1.0% by weight sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 32 wherein the liquid coffee ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 33 wherein the liquid coffee ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 2000mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more liquid coffee ingredients during an operating cycle, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage by dilution of said one or more liquid coffee ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the one or more liquid coffee ingredients is diluted by a ratio of between 10 to 1 and 100 to 1.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the one or more liquid coffee ingredients is diluted by a ratio of between 20 to 1 and 70 to 1.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 36 further comprising the step of passing the beverage through means to produce foaming of the beverage, wherein the level of foaming is greater than 70%.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed

from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is any of a soup, fruit juice, flavoured milk, carbonated beverage, sauce or dessert.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): A cartridge as claimed in claim 38, wherein the cartridge comprises an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member.

Claim 41 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 40 wherein a snap-fit arrangement is provided to conjoin the outer member and the inner member on assembly of the cartridge.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A cartridge as claimed in claim 41 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, wherein said means for producing the jet of the beverage comprises an aperture in ~~the~~ a beverage flow path.

Claim 43 (Cancelled): A cartridge as claimed in claim 42

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): A beverage as produced by the method of claim 13.

Claim 45 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cartridge is a single-use cartridge.

Claim 46 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein an annular bowl is disposed in the cartridge and has an opening facing away from a beverage flow path from the inlet to the outlet and a closed portion bordering the beverage flow path.

Claim 47 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 46 wherein the annular bowl includes feed apertures in the closed portion to permit the liquid chocolate ingredient to drip into the beverage flow path.

Claim 48 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 47 wherein the annular bowl surrounds a central discharge spout having the outlet of the cartridge at one end.

Claim 49 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 48 wherein the inlet is on the same side of the cartridge as the outlet.

Claim 50 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 49 wherein a manifold chamber having a plurality of exits surrounds the cartridge, the manifold chamber having an entrance in fluid communication with the inlet of the cartridge.